plaints, letters, memoranda etc. from individuals depositors saving holders and organisations from various parts of the country during 1st January, 1981 to 31st January, 1986 regarding malpractices, illegal transactions, corruption, etc. against the Peerless General Finance Company, a non-banking company of Calcutta;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken on such complaints; and

(d) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India have received complains from the Certificate holders of M|s. Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited, Calcutta regarding non-submission of pucca receipts for paid subscriptions endowment Certificates non-payment of surrender value|death claims|maturity claims, etc. during the period from 1.1.1981 to 31.1.1986. These have been brought to the notice of the Company for corrective action.

As the activities of the Company were considered to be covered by the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978, the State Government of West Bengal had issued a notice to the Company in 1979 under the provisions of the rules framed by the State Government under the aforesaid Act asking the Company to submit statements of particulars and winding up plans. However, the Company *obtained a stay order from the Calcutta High Court.* Hearing in the case filed by the Company in the Calcutta High Court has commenced *and the matter is sub-judice.*

Seizure of Smuggled Foreign Goods in Gujarat

1639. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggled foreign goods and other articles were seized during 1st January, 1985 to 5th February, 1986 from Salaya, Porbandar, Mahuva Bhavnagar, Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many persons have been detained in this connection; and

(d) what concrete steps have been taken to minimise such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (d) During the period from 1.1.1985 to 5.2.1986, contraband goods worth Rs. 11 crores were seized from Salaya, Porbandar, Mahuva, Bhavnagar and other parts in Saureshtra and Kutch in Gujarat. Gold, wrist watches, fabrics, Indian currency, etc. were the main commodities seized.

(c) During the period from 1.1.85 to 5.2.86, 112 persons were detained under the COFEPOSA Act, 1974.

(d) Anti-smuggling drive in the region has been intensified. The trends in smuggling and seizures made are also kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close coordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities.

Stringent action is taken against persons found involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in Courts. Apart form confiscation of goods involved and imposition of personal penalties in appropriate cases, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to.

Introduction of Computers in Banks

1640. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of different types of computers that have been introduced at present in various nationalised banks;

(b) what is the future programme in this regard;

(c) what is its effect on the working efficiency of the banks; and

(d) whether the introduction of computers has affected the present employees and also the future employment openings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Information regarding the number of computers installed in the various Public

Sector Banks is being ascertained and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) In accordance with the programme drawn up by Reserve Bank of India in consultation with the Public Sector Banks Mini computers are to be installed at the Regional/Zonal Offices of Public Sector Banks and main-frame computers at the Central Officers of Pubiic Sector Banks. In addition computers would also be installed to cover a number of allied activities such as dealing room operations etc. The banks have also a programme of installing encoders and medium speed sorters, as part of computerised clearing house operations.

(c) The introduction of computers and machines would enable banks to give better customer serivce, improve their house keeping and also enable them to have a better management information system and thereby generally tone up efficiency in banks.

(d) As per the Bipartite Settlement signed on 8.9.1983 between Indian Banks' Association and Employees Unions there shall not be any retrenchment of staff as a result of mechanisation/computerisation and the displaced staff, if any, shall be absorbed in the same city or town. With regard to future employment openings, there may be a change in the work content of the employees but the inflow of staff is expected to be commensuarate with the expansion in the banking industry.

Nationalisation of Non-Banking Companies

1641. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made for the nationalisation of non-banking companies such as the Peerless General Finance Company Limited and others which are running business worth crores of rupees from the deposits and securities made particularly by poor and common men; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Government have received memoranda and letters regarding the affairs of M/s. peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. Calcutta which also urge *inter-alia* for nationalisation of the company. The State Government of West Bengal had served a notice in 1979 on the Company under the provisions of the rules framed by it under the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978 asking the Company to submit statements of particulars and winding up plan. The Company filed a writ petition in the High Court of Calcutta in 1979 challenging the applicability of the Act to its business and obtained a stay order. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Import Export of Cotton

1642. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quality of cotton exported during the last two years i.e. 1983-84 and 1984-85 and how much has been imported during the same period; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to improve the export of this commodity so as to give remunerative prices to cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) A total quantity of 3.54 lakh bales and 1.79 lakh bales of cotton has been exported to the foreign countries during the cotton years 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively. A quantity of 75,000 bales of cotton was contracted for import during 1984-85 cotton year.

(b) With a view to ensuring that the growers of cotton get remunerative prices for their produce, Government of India have released substantial quantity of cotton for export during the current cotton season.

Recovery of Income tax dues

1643. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI N. E. BALRAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: